Law Enforcement News

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NC OC — NG? OK?

Some PD's curb pepper mace after in-custody death

By Jacob R. Clark

A handful of law enforcement agencies in North Carolina have either canceled or postponed plans to issue cayenne pepper-based deterrent sprays such as oleoresin capsicum (OC) in the wake of a report linking the substance to the death of a suspect while in police custody in July.

The report, released Aug. 30 by Dr. Lisa Flannagan of the state's Medical Examiner's Office, said that the death of Angelo Robinson, 24, was "precipitated" by the pepper spray used by Concord police officers to subdue him. Officers used the substance on Robinson, who Flannagan said was legally drunk at the time of the incident, after being called to the scene of a disturbance outside a nightclub. He died within minutes of being transported by officers to the police station.

The death sparked rioting in the town, located just a few miles northeast of Charlotte, during which one store was burned down, windows were smashed, and eight police officers, two firefighters and several residents were injured. Officials declared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew to quell the unrest. [See LEN, July/August 1993.]

A Heart Condition Aggravated

Flannagan said Robinson, who was 6-foot-1 and weighed 308 pounds, suffered from an enlarged heart and a chronic lung condition that may have been aggravated by the spray, causing him to choke on his own vomit.

"In my opinion, the cause of death in this case is asphyxia due to bronchospasm precipitated by the pepper spray," the report said. "The decedent reportedly complained of respiratory difficulty and subsequently collapsed after being sprayed with this substance. . . . There is no physical injury to explain his death.

"Based on the temporal relationship between his being sprayed with the pepper spray and his apparent respiratory compromise and rapid demise, I believe that this agent served as the precipitating factor in the chain of events," wrote Flannagan.

The doctor did not return calls from LEN for comment.

Although a handful of suspects who have been sprayed with OC later died in police custody, Robinson's is believed to be the first death in which OC spray has been directly implicated.

"Sloppy, Inaccurate" Report

The medical examiner's findings were quickly and vehemently challenged by officials of Advanced Defense Technologies Inc., the company that produces the brand of OC spray used on Robinson.

"With respect to the inaccuracy and sloppiness of this autopsy, if [Flannagan] were treating a live patient, she would have been sued for malpractice for the conclusions that she's drawn," said Howard Perry, president of the Mint Hill, N.C., company, whose First Strike brand is used by 1,500 law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"Nowhere in her autopsy does she even establish there was any pepper internally or externally in the decedent, only that she was told he was sprayed with pepper," Perry continued. "So she concludes it must have had something to do with his death because she couldn't find anything else. The autopsy says there is a complete lack of physical evidence as to why he died. It's her conclusion that because of any lack of evidence, then the pepper must have had something to do with it."

OC spray temporarily inflames the eyes and the mucous membranes of the nose and throat, and its effects last for 45 minutes to an hour, during which trainers and manufacturers recommend that the subject be calmed and closely watched for complications. If complications arise, experts advise that the subject be given immediate medical attention. [See LEN, May 15, 1993.]

This was not done in the Robinson case, said Perry. "Our contention is, and will continue to be, that the guy died because of a lack of proper medical attention. . . . Had he received proper medical attention, he most likely would have lived — no matter what the cause of his collapse was."

The company's own investigation of the incident concluded that Robinson was sprayed with one canister of First Strike, which was "properly applied and did not contribute to the suspect's death."

"The suspect was intoxicated, passed out in the cruiser, vomited and choked to death on his own vomit," the company said of its own findings. "This in not an uncommon factor in alcohol-

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Trainers agree: Don't rush to judgment on OC sprays

Law enforcement trainers and experts on pepper-based sprays like that linked to the police-custody death of a North Carolina man say they continue to believe that, with proper training, the sprays are an effective law enforcement tool that has contributed to a marked reduction in officer and suspect injuries and excessive-force complaints.

As in just about any police encounter with criminal suspects, they said, officers must exercise caution when using OC sprays. Experts also agreed that subjects should be monitored closely for any adverse reactions to the spray and should get immediate medical attention in the event such reactions occur.

None of the sources interviewed by LEN recommended that law enforcement stop using the OC sprays in the wake of the finding by the North Carolina Medical Examiner's Office that the substance "precipitated" bronchial spasms that caused the death of Angelo Robinson, 24, of Concord, while in police custody July 11.

"I think people are really getting nervous about this situation because of the [medical examiner's] statement," said Roland Ouelette, president of REB Security Training Inc. of Avon, Conn., which has trained about 25,000 police, corrections and private security personnel in the use of OC spray. "The medical examiner said 'in my opinion,' and that's an opinion, not a fact. That has to be taken into consideration."

Ouelette said his company has fielded scores of calls from concerned law enforcement officials nationwide. "We're telling people to continue properly training in the use of OC spray and to use OC spray because it's still a very, very powerful option on the force continuum," he told LEN. "It's still more powerful than any other tool we know of as far as stopping violent people."

Ouelette, a former Connecticut State Police lieutenant, said police departments may be acting prematurely by shelving the sprays. "Considering the track record of cayenne pepper sprays in this country, I think it would be a real poor reaction. . .to pull OC from officers because then, where do they go? Officers kill people with cars, and they certainly don't pull their cars away from them."

Edward Nowicki, the director of

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What They Are Saying:

"We're telling people to continue properly training in the use of OC spray and to use OC spray because it's still a very, very powerful option on the force continuum."

— Roland Ouelette, law enforcement trainer and former Connecticut State Police lieutenant, on the controversy following an in-custody death said to be linked to pepper-based sprays. (1:5)

Crime said to hit 17-year low. The question remains: Why?

Less than one in four U.S. households were victimized by violent crime or thefts last year, according to the latest National Crime Victimization Survey, but while the victimization rate is the lowest on record since the annual survey was launched in 1975, there appears to be no single explanation as to why the numbers are declining.

The survey, in which the Bureau of Justice Statistics canvasses 99,000 occupants age 12 or older in 49,000 households twice a year, said that 22.6 percent of the nearly 100 million households in the United States were affected by crime in 1992. That figure was down slightly from the 23.7-percent figure recorded a year earlier.

In 1975, 32 percent of American households were hit by crime.

While the data represent a continuation of the past several years' trend showing steady declines in crime, Acting BJS Director Lawrence A. Greenfield lamented that it "still means almost one in four households were victimized by a violent or property crime in 1992."

Further, Greenfield noted, 5 percent of U.S. households experienced violent crimes during 1992, a rate that was "unchanged from 1991," when 4.9 percent of U.S. households reported a violent crime. In 1975, 5.8 percent of households experienced violent crime.

Minority and poor households continued to show higher victimization rates than white, middle-class households. The survey said that while 22 percent of all white households were touched by a crime last, 27 percent of black households were victimized. Thirty-one percent of households headed by Hispanics reported crime victimization last year, compared with only 22 percent of non-Hispanic households. Hispanic households experienced the highest rate of violent-crime victimization, at 7.6 percent, compared to 7.1 percent of black households, and 4.8 percent for white households.

The survey also pointed out that households with incomes under $15,000 were more likely to be victims of burglary than were households with higher incomes.

Household victimization rates were highest in the West, at 28.5 percent, and lowest in the Northeast, at 18 percent.

Around the Nation

CONNECTICUT — The Brookfield School District plans to install video cameras — hidden behind two-way mirrors — to help maintain discipline on school buses. About $6,000 will be spent for a 3-month trial program.

DELAWARE — The state executed Kenneth DeShields, 33, on Aug. 31 for the 1984 shotgun murder of a 67-year-old woman during a robbery.

MARYLAND — State investigators were told that a Harford County Sheriff's Office supervisor discarded critical evidence from an autopsy on an inmate whose family claims he was raped and murdered in the county detention center last year, according to a report in The Baltimore Sun. In addition, the state Attorney General's office is investigating reports that more than a ton of documents from the center were burned at the county incinerator in late April — three days before an acting warden took over after allegations of mismanagement and about two weeks before state investigators began looking into the death of William M. Ford. Ford, 28, of Wilmington, Del., died on March 1, 1992, while serving a 30-day sentence for drunken driving. Detention facility officials said Ford committed suicide by hanging himself with a bed sheet.

MASSACHUSETTS — Ex-Suffolk County jail officer Gabriel Festa, 42, was given a suspended sentence last month after he was convicted of kicking an inmate in the face, chest and groin.

Hampden County Jail officials have begun holding video-conferenced hearings for prisoners, which they say will save time and money and help enhance security.

A 70-year-old Northboro man arrested for growing marijuana said he raised the crop to pay off a $40,000 tax bill. Dean Firth Squier pleaded not guilty to marijuana possession charges after 50 plants were found by police. He faces up to 17 years in prison and the loss of his property if convicted.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — A woman filed a lawsuit against the Town of Tilton and Police Officer Adam Roy in late August, charging that the officer made sexual advances toward her after taking a sexual assault report in August 1992.

NEW JERSEY — A 21-year-old man and three 16-year-olds were charged last month with ethnic intimidation stemming from an Aug. 20 cross-burning on the lawn of a white family whose sons have black friends.

NEW YORK — Parole officers will be issued 9mm. semiautomatic pistols to replace the .38-caliber weapons currently used by 1,400 parole and warrant officers, it was announced Sept. 9.

A tow-truck driver has been credited with saving the life of a State Police officer who was being choked by a handcuffed suspect. James Gugino intervened when he saw David Beverly choking Trooper John Morrow, 29. Beverly, 57, has been charged with attempted murder.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno postponed an expected announcement that the Justice Department has decided to close its civil rights investigation into the 1991 riot in Brooklyn's Crown Heights section. The move came after Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes pleaded for more time to argue for a Federal prosecution of members of a black mob who killed a Hasidic Jew during the disturbance. One youth was arrested and charged with the murder but was acquitted by a jury last year. No other suspects have been apprehended.

A Mount Vernon police detective was acquitted of all charges Sept. 14 in connection with the fatal shooting of a Queens doctor in February. State Supreme Court Justice Nicholas Colabella heard the manslaughter case against Det. Anthony Rozzi, who was accused of shooting 29-year-old pediatric neurologist Dr. Lenas Kakkouras after he and his partner encountered him on a street. Rozzi claimed the shooting was accidental. Kakkouras's family filed a civil suit aginst the Police Department following the acquittal.

A Brooklyn man whose death in custody sparked charges of police brutality died of cocaine intoxication, the New York City Medical Examiner's office ruled Sept. 14. John Jordan, 29, died after a confrontation with a city bus driver and police Aug. 27. Police said Jordan was acting irrationally and hit his head on one of the bus's wheel rims as officers tried to subdue him.

Half of the officers who patrol the Staten Island Rapid Transit system are under investigation for working unnecessary overtime and going home hours before their shifts end, The New York Post reported last month.

Pointing to 16 toll booth robberies so far this year, toll collectors at New York City's numerous bridges and tunnels are calling for tighter security measures. In 1992, nine robberies were reported at the city's toll booths.

An unidentified New York City police sergeant has been quietly transferred after it was reported that he had sex with a female officer while on duty and held sex parties in the pre-dawn hours at his Queens stationhouse, New York Newsday reported Sept. 9. The allegations are being investigated by the department's Internal Affairs Bureau.

PENNSYLVANIA — A Philadelphia police officer who was critically wounded in June is making "miraculous" progress, according to his doctors, and has been moved to a rehabilitation center to begin therapy. John Marynowitz, 31, was shot in the head and shoulder June 16 after he and his partner, Robert Hayes, pulled over an unlicensed cab. An 19-year-old illegal immigrant from Haiti who was a passenger in the cab wrested a gun from Marynowitz during a struggle and shot both officers, killing Hayes.

VERMONT — State Police Sgt. Stephen Kennedy, 37, who was convicted for the second time in April of drunken driving, had his driver's license restored and returned to work last month until a panel decides his future.

Waterbury officials say they paid $20,000 to Robert Bureau, 33, to settle a brutality complaint he filed against Police Chief Wayne Sourdiff and another officer, who allegedly assaulted Bureau in 1988.

A man who was strip-searched for drugs after being pulled over for speeding by two state troopers received a $25,000 settlement. Robert Wright said the search humiliated him.

The ACLU said it will file a class-action lawsuit against the state because of prison overcrowding that the group says is the worst in the nation. The ACLU says inmates suffer from "a complete lack of medical, dental or mental health care for even the most gravely ill."

In a move expected to save $800,000 annually, the state will pay people less for jury duty and eliminate its 25-cent mileage reimbursement.

ALABAMA — The widow of a Ku Klux Klan member disclosed that her husband made a deathbed confession last year in which he admitted his involvement in the 1957 murder of a black man. Diane Alexander said her husband, Henry, who was dying of lung cancer, admitted that he and three fellow Klansmen killed 25-year-old Willie Edwards by forcing him to jump from a bridge into the Alabama River, because he had allegedly insulted a white woman. Alexander and two other suspects were charged in the 1970's, but a judge quashed the indictments, ruling that forcing a person to jump from a bridge "does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such a person." Alexander reportedly was a KKK informer for the FBI.

Investigators are reviewing claims that Birmingham police officers beat robbery suspect Rodger Foster, 22, when they arrested him Aug. 26, an incident that Foster said was "Rodney King all over again."

ARKANSAS — The state Crime Victims Reparations Board plans to review payments for rape exams, which it said costs twice as much in Arkansas as in other states. The average cost of a rape exam in the state is $320, but prices can go as high as $700.

El Dorado police Lieut. James Shannon says he will appeal his suspension and demotion for the handling of a drug raid in July. Shannon, and Sgt. Keith Cooper, who resigned Aug. 26, were disciplined after four people complained the pair stopped them at gunpoint and strip-searched them. None of the four were arrested.

FLORIDA — A weeklong 9 P.M. to daybreak curfew was imposed by Crystal River authorities last month after the Sept. 12 fatal shooting of a handcuffed black suspect by a white officer. The death of Jerome Bunch touched off incidents of rock-throwing and a beating, police said

Black inmates at a Palm Beach jail doused a white inmate with gasoline and were about to set him on fire when guards intervened. Authorities refused to say whether the Sept. 7 incident was related to the abduction and torching of a black tourist from Brooklyn, N.Y., by two white men near Tampa. The incident occurred the same day that the pair were convicted of kidnapping and setting Christopher Wilson on fire New Year's Day.

The Tampa medical examiner's office said that at least two of four police bullets that struck a robbery suspect Aug. 29 were fired as the man's back was to officers. An autopsy on Edward Lee James Jr., who was killed during a gun battle with police, showed that two bullets that struck him in the buttocks were fired as he turned away. James was being pursued by officers who had identified him as a robbery suspect and fired at them, wounding Sgt. Mark Townsend in the knee.

Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega will continue to serve his 40-year sentence for cocaine trafficking at a two-room suite equipped with a color TV, exercise bike and computer at the Federal Metropolitan Correctional Center south of Miami. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons denied a request by prosecutors to move Noriega to the super-maximum-security prison in Marion, Ill.

GEORGIA — Atlanta police officials said they would charge two teen-agers with murder in the death of Aisha Heard, 13, who was used as a human shield by one of the suspects. Osceolo Kelly, 18, allegedly grabbed Heard to shield himself from shots allegedly fired by William Berry, 19. Heard was shot and trampled, and died the day after the Sept. 12 incident.

Store clerks in Cairo are arming themselves in the wake of two stabbing deaths in one month. Police aren't sure if the deaths of Ben Joyner Jr., whose body was discovered on Labor Day, and John Duncan, who was killed in August, are related, but other merchants say they are taking no chances.

A Decatur police officer featured in a Dupont TV commercial praising bulletproof vests was recovering last month after being shot for the second time in less than three years. Clementina Dillard, 29, was hospitalized Aug. 27 after she was shot in the abdomen and right hip while trying to break up a robbery at a fast-food restaurant Dillard was shot in the face and side in 1990. She had her body armor on during both incidents.

LOUISIANA — A grand jury in New Iberia has begun its investigation into the July 14 shooting of robbery suspect Eddie Lewis by former Jeanerette Police Chief Ted Kahn, who has since resigned.

MISSISSIPPI — Off-duty Jackson Police Officer Richard McGahey fatally shot a gunman who had fired into a crowd Sept. 5, killing a college senior and wounding two others outside a post-football game party.

NORTH CAROLINA — Chapel Hill officials are considering a ban on handguns following the slaying of a jogger in July and a surge in assaults and robberies in August.

The Ku Klux Klan's Invisible Empire, which had its headquarters in Raleigh, turned over computers and other office equipment to the state NAACP to settle a suit filed after Klan violence in Georgia in 1987.

Attorney General Mike Easley plans to put together a special task force to investigate environmental crimes full time. He said people who knowingly pollute air and water should face prison terms as well as fines.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Horry County Police Chief J. Gordon Harris said his officers didn't have enough equipment to deal with a heavily armed escapee from a North Carolina prison who was later killed in a 7-hour standoff with authorities. Harris said police had to rely on the State Law Enforcement Division's SWAT team for help, and he wants county officials to give him the resources to set up his own SWAT team. SLED agents killed Garland Tedder after luring him out of hiding with a bag of food on Aug. 31, saying they feared he would escape and take hostages. One agent was wounded in the standoff.

Hampton County Sheriff Rudy Loadholt was indicted in late August on nine counts of sexual harassment, and was suspended from office by Gov. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Three female workers complained that Loadholt tried to undress, kiss and fondle them, but his attorney said the charges are false and politically motivated.

Three Geogetown County Sheriff's Department employees who were fired by new Sheriff A. Lane Cribb on Aug. 11 claim their dismissals were without cause. The reason given for the dismissal of Deputy Alan Waters, who was named the state's deputy of the year in 1992, was "new sheriff." Cribb was elected last November.

VIRGINIA — State troopers will continue to augment Richmond police in a stepped-up police presence in a drug-plagued neighborhood at least throughout this month, officials said. Residents say there has been improvement in the Blackwell section since intensified patrols began in June. Ten state troopers have been conducting joint patrols of the area since June.

ILLINOIS — Two Chicago boys, ages 11 and 13, were charged Sept. 10 with attempted murder after police said they shoved a 3-year-old boy down a six-story trash compactor five days earlier. The toddler was found unharmed in a trash bin by a maintenance man.

INDIANA — Authorities have intensified the search for a man wanted in the Aug. 24 slaying of his mother and four other relatives at a farm near Napoleon. State Police say that George Hardebeck, 31, is an experienced outdoorsman who has the skills to survive the rough terrain of southeastern Indiana.

IOWA — Cedar Rapids police said last month they expected to make as many as 41 arrests in an eight-month narcotics investigation that has already netted 13 suspects.

Around the Nation

KENTUCKY — A Rowan Circuit judge has ruled that three State Police investigators, while "sloppy" in their work, did not damage the defense of a murder defendant by destroying notes they made in the case. Judge William Mains said the destruction of the notes by the detectives was not deliberate and that reports based on them were complete. Mains made the ruling in the murder case against Ralph Baze Jr., who is accused of fatally shooting Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and Deputy Arthur Briscoe as they tried to serve arrest warrants on him in January 1992.

State Police discovered a field of marijuana plants valued at $200,00 growing in the heart of Newport on a hill behind a shopping center. Sgt. Ron Kenner, who has participated in hundreds of airborne marijuana searches, said it was rare to find such a large pot plot growing in an urban area. "Starting next week, I'm going to start flying up here," he said.

MINNESOTA — Sobriety checkpoints planned for the Labor Day weekend were canceled after two Minneapolis appeals court judges questioned their legality Police will suspend the practice until the U.S. Supreme Court ean issue a ruling, and will use more roving patrols instead.

OHIO — Kettering police were considering charges against five teens who became sick after eating seeds from the toxic jimson weed plant. An adult who was at the home where the teens ate the seeds Sept. 5 may also be charged.

Liberty Township officials last month approved a $45,000-a-year contract with the Butler County Sheriff's Department to provide a full-time deputy who will help police the fast-growing township of 15,000 residents.

The first arrest and car seizure under a tough new anti-DUI law occurred in Hamilton County, which has the state's highest rate of repeat drunken-driving offenders. The law allows police to seize cars from those who are caught driving drunk for the second time in a five-year period or who are driving with a suspended license.

Fairlawn and Akron police say they may have busted a major distributor of drugs to children in the Fairlawn and Copley schools. A six-month investigation led to police stopping a car carrying boys ages 14, 15 and 16 on I-77, and a search turned up 34 grams of marijuana, 45 grams of psychedelic mushrooms and $267 in cash. The 14-year-old is believed to be a major distributor of drugs in the schools and parks around the city. A subsequent raid on the home of the boy's alleged supplier turned up 457 grams of marijuana, 308 grams of mushrooms and $3,600 in cash.

WEST VIRGINIA — Arnold and Betty Harper are suing the City of Elkins for $2 million, claiming a police officer roughed up Mr. Harper in a dispute over a parking meter. Harper said he suffers from Tourette's Syndrome, which causes uncontrollable swearing.

An inmate at a Harrisville jail, who is charged with killing State Trooper Larry Hacker, 34, hanged himself with a bed sheet in his cell Sept. 13. Dennis Ferguson, 68, was to have gone on trial this month.

WISCONSIN — Two men are being held by Kenosha police in connection with a nine-hour standoff Sept. 5 that forced the evacuation of 18 homes. The incident began when officers responded to neighbors' complaints of loud music.

IOWA — A Des Moines police officer is appealing a six-month suspension of his driver's license that was imposed in August after he hit a pedestrian and was charged with drunken driving while off duty. Scott Pehl, a 10-year veteran of the Police Department, is awaiting a state Department of Transportation hearing on the matter as well as arraignment in Polk County Court on Sept. 21. The pedestrian was not seriously injured. Pehl's blood-alcohol level after the Aug. 10 incident was 0.125; the legal limit is 0.10.

The Griswold City Council voted Sept. 1 to hire a private firm to investigate about 25 complaints against its two-member Police Department. The move came one day after a Cass County grand jury was called to investigate the death of an unarmed Griswold man who was shot and killed by Police Chief Ed Ritter. Vernon Ireland was shot twice in the chest Aug. 18 as Ritter attempted to arrest him for public intoxication.

MINNESOTA — Marshall police used an unlikely source to crack a stolen car case last month — an unsigned, handwritten résumé apparently left under the vehicle's seat by the suspect. Scott Root, 31, was arrested and charged with stealing a 1985 Chevrolet after police called employers listed on the résumé, eventually pinpointing Root as the thief.

MISSOURI — St. Louis police are searching for two more suspects in the murder of security guard Michael Davis, 43, who was killed while trying to stop a robbery at an apartment complex for senior citizens. A 16-year-old boy has been charged in the case.

NEBRASKA — Omaha Judge Lawrence Corrigan has refused to transfer to juvenile court the case of a 15-year-old charged with murder in the shooting deaths of her two younger sisters. Corrigan held that Jennifer Rae's crimes were premeditated and violent, and thus she should stand trial as an adult.

ARIZONA — The Phoenix City Manager may let police use a meter to check car window-tint darkness. About 30 percent of the cars in Phoenix and Tucson have tinted windows.

Border Patrolman Larry Selders, 41, was charged last month with raping a Mexican woman he detained for illegally entering the United States near Nogales. He was being held on $100,000 bail.

COLORADO — A second 80-bed boot camp detention program for juveniles will open Nov. 1 at the Division of Youth Services' Lookout Mountain facility, under a bill approved by a special session of the Legislature. [See related story, Page 6.]

Greeley police have recommended felony charges for a man who tried to commit suicide by blowing himself up in his home in August. The explosion set by Dave Gracey caused $1.3 million in damage to the neighborhood.

NEW MEXICO — Albuquerque officials ordered more patrols and lights on the University of New Mexico campus following the appearance of hate posters with racist, sexist and homophobic messages.

Aaron Mathis, 20, was sentenced to four years in prison for stabbing an Albuquerque police dog with a pair of scissors as he escaped from police headquarters while being questioned about an armed robbery. The K-9 survived but was later retired.

A 13-year-old has been accused of shooting his two brothers in the head with a .22-caliber rifle as they slept in their Lovington home. Andy Lopez is charged as a juvenile in the Aug. 27 murders of his brothers, Allen, 21, and Adrian, 9. "They were all good kids," said a man who knew the brothers. "Something went wrong."

OKLAHOMA — Tulsa police said they have a "good suspect" in a series of arson fires that have destroyed 11 cars. Seven of the fires were set in the early morning hours of the weekend.

FBI agents have launched a search for convicted bank swindler Charles Barzarian, who fled last month after being granted a 24-hour pass from prison to attend his daughter's wedding.

Two brothers accused of killing their allegedly abusive father as he slept will not be going to jail. Herman Dutton, 15, and his brother, Druie, 12, both of Rush Spring, pleaded no contest to juvenile charges of first-degree manslaughter. Under the plea-bargain agreement, the case won't be decided until April 7, 1996, and charges against the boys will be dismissed if they stay out of trouble. The pair, who received an outpouring of support from town residents, said they killed their father, Lonnie, after their 10-year-old sister told them he had molested her.

TEXAS — A white supremacist group is lobbying the Vidor City Council for a parade permit to march and rally in the town on Oct. 16. The Mississippi-based Nationalist Movement said it wants to celebrate the departure of the last black resident from a federally funded housing project in the mostly white town. Bill Simpson, the last black resident of the complex, was shot to death Sept. 1 in Beaumont, where police say he was the victim of a robbery

Family members who make false child-abuse reports will be prosecuted, officials announced. The charges, often made during custody disputes, are unfounded in 51 percent of the cases, they said.

Two white Corsicana police officers fired for their involvement in the death of a black man in their custody were reinstated last month after a grand jury refused to indict them. Officers Todd Morris and Jeff Schafer were reinstated after autopsies showed that Craig Thomas died of buth drug-related causes and injuries sustained during his arrest.

Houston police Officer Danny Vaughan walked 20 feet last month for the first time since he was shot twice in the head in March. Vaughan, who was shot as he walked into the South Central substation, was to be released from the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research last month.

Convicted child killer Raul Meza, whose release from prison caused a public outcry, was back in jail in Uvalde after his grandparents said he verbally abused them. Meza has been driven out of six cities where he has tried to live since his release.

A death-row inmate who said he would refuse attempts to stop his execution apparently had a change of heart after his appointment with the executioner drew near. Richard Lee Beavers received a reprieve from the U.S. Supreme Court just 11 hours before his scheduled Sept. 7 execution. Beavers abducted and killed a Houston restaurant manager in 1986.

UTAH — An appeals court in Salt Lake City overturned the lewdness conviction of ex-Chase County sheriff's deputy Barry Snyder because authorities didn't read him his rights. Snyder was convicted of exposing himself to two girls.

ALASKA — St. Paul Police Chief Scott Stender quit last month as State Patrol officials continued their investigation into the Aug. 12 shooting death of Matfey Fratis during a disturbance call. Stender said staying on the force was a "no-win situation."

CALIFORNIA — Pico Rivera officials have ordered Billy and Fym Davis to remove a spiked fence, razor wire and alarm-sounding laser beams from their fortified home, but allowed them to keep a Doberman pinscher and an armed security guard on the property.

Fullerton police charged three people, included a 17-year-old girl who said she is a skinhead, in the racially motivated beating death of Tina Roxanne Rodriguez in a parking lot Sept. 2. Police said about 10 to 20 people watched the beating and no one stepped in to stop it.

A Federal judge in Los Angeles has rejected Los Angeles Police Officer Theodore Briseno's bid to have the city pay for his defense in a civil lawsuit stemming from the 1991 beating of Rodney King. Briseno, who was acquitted of Federal civil rights charges in the King beating earlier this year, is also waging a battle to keep his job — a decision that will be made by the department's Board of Rights.

San Francisco's Office of Citizen's Complaints is investigating a claim by Santeria church members that police disrupted a religious ceremony Aug. 21 and seized several animals intended for sacrifice. If true, police acted in violation of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that said cities cannot ban religious animal sacrifices. San Francisco passed such an ordinance a year ago.

A Sonora jury convicted a woman of manslaughter Sept. 8 for killing her son's alleged molester, concluding she acted during extreme emotional distress. Ellie Nesler, 41, could be sentenced to a mental hospital for as little as six months if a jury determines she was temporarily insane at the time of the April 2 shooting of Mark Driver during a court hearing.

The state Assembly approved a measure Sept. 9 that would require people to prove they are legal U.S. residents before they are issued driver's licenses. A similar measure was passed in the Senate, and Gov. Pete Wilson, criticized for proposing "anti-immigration" legislation, said he will sign it.

Neighbors and police in San Fernando say Leona Vanatta, a 66-year-old woman who robbed her own bank of $242 — the amount of her monthly Social Security check — lived alone and waged a difficult struggle to meet expenses. "She just wanted what she was entitled to, and when she couldn't get it, she got desperate," said Det. Sgt. Robert Ordelheide.

IDAHO — Caldwell police sprayed a farmer who was baling hay in the predawn hours in the face with pepper mace, but the farmer kept working anyway. Kevin Rowley, 28, was arrested after he finished his chores Neighbors had complained about noise.

NEVADA — Charges were to be filed against a man who stole a Highway Patrol cruiser and led police on a chase while handcuffed. Richard Scott, 35, led Las Vegas police on a chase during which speeds reached 90 mph before he crashed the vehicle last month.

Reno police Lieut. Ondra Berry was suspended last month for six weeks without pay because he gave testing information to police recruit Peggy Nutley. Berry admitted he made a mistake, officials said.

OREGON — About 30 inmates at the Sheridan Federal Correctional Institute rioted Sept. 2, burning a building to the ground. Officials are trying to find out what set off the disturbance.

WASHINGTON — The state Supreme Court struck down the state's hate-crime law Sept. 9, saying it violates the First Amendment. The ruling dismissed charges against David Talley, who burned a cross in his yard as a mixed-race couple looked at a house they considered buying in his Seattle neighborhood.

A Federal class-action lawsuit was filed on behalf of inmates at the Washington State Corrections Center for Women in Purdy, alleging that state officials failed to provide more than 300 inmates at the facility with adequate medical, dental and mental health care.

Bye-bye, Boise

James Carvino, a former Justice Department official who has served as chief of the 165-officer Boise, Idaho, Police Department since 1989, stepped down last month, ending a 38-year career in public-sector law enforcement.

Carvino, 57, who also planned to step down as president of the Police Executive Research Forum on Oct. 1, resigned to become vice president of worldwide corporate security for the Boise-based Morrison Knudsen Corp., a Fortune 500 engineering firm.

Boise Mayor **Brent Coles** opted for an insider: police Capt. **Larry Paulson**, as the successor to Carvino, whose last official day as Police Chief was Sept. 13. PERF members were to vote for a new president later this month, according to **Chuck Wexler**, the organization's executive director.

In a recent LEN interview, Carvino said that a change in city administration in Boise gave him the opportunity to take the position at Morrison Knudsen, which had offered him the job before. "After 4[illegible] years, I felt I had completed my role and this would provide the new Mayor a opportunity to pick someone of his own choosing and enable me to go on to something different," he said.

Carvino, who has compiled a national reputation for his managerial skills, is in charge of building a security section for the corporation, which has facilities in nearly every state and in 23 countries. He will oversee the corporate and plant security divisions and its investigations section.

The job is "different and exciting because there's a lot to be accomplished in terms of management and the organization," said Carvino. "Despite all of the aggravation, I've had a life's love experience with law enforcement for 38 years, and I feel the same way about this job. I'm doing what I like, and as long as I can see myself accomplishing the goals and objectives that I feel will assist the corporation, then I'll stay."

Carvino honed his management skills while heading several law enforcement agencies. He is the former chief of the Racine, Wis., Police Department and also led the U.S. Capitol Police in Washington, D.C. He served as the deputy director of the Justice Department's Office of Liaison Services, and also was a law enforcement adviser to former U.S. Attorneys General **Edwin Meese 3d** and **Dick Thornburgh** during the Reagan and Bush administrations. He began his policing career in his native New York City, where he conducted major corruption investigations during the time of the Knapp Commission hearings in the early 1970's.

Carvino lists his tenure as PERF president among his foremost achievements. "That, to me, was my peer recognition, and I'm very proud of that above all others because I consider [PERF] to be a very professional organization," he said. He served on the committee that chose Wexler to succeed **Darrel Stephens**, the former PERF executive director who resigned earlier this year to become Police Chief of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Singing for Freeh

New York City police Det. **Kim Royster** has sung at the city's world-renowned Apollo Theater and at many Police Department functions since she joined the force in 1983. But her biggest thrill, she said recently, was to sing at last month's White House swearing-in ceremony for new FBI Director **Louis Freeh**.

Royster, 30, who currently serves in the department's public information office, appeared at the Rose Garden ceremony at the personal request of Freeh, who, prior to his appointment, was a Federal judge in New York City.

"He had seen me perform on several other occasions like the department's promotion ceremonies," she told LEN. "He contacted the First Deputy Commissioner [**John S. Pritchard 3d**, who recently left the department to become a top assistant to Freeh at the FBI], and told him he was interested in me singing at his swearing-in ceremony. Commissioner Pritchard contacted me and asked me to do it, and I said, 'Definitely. It's an honor.'"

Royster, who appeared at the ceremony in her dress blues, sang a song she is well familiar with — "The Star Spangled Banner." She sang the national anthem when former New York Police Commissioner **Lee P. Brown** took his oath of office in 1990, and also at the swearing-in ceremony for his successor, current Police Commissioner **Raymond W. Kelly**. "Being in uniform and representing the New York Police Department played a big part of my being proud of being there," she said.

Royster's efforts earned the compliments of **President Clinton**, who greeted her after the ceremony. "He told me how much he liked my singing, which was great," she said. "I was so excited that I was able to meet the President of the United States.... I would never thought that I would be so close to him."

Royster also got to rub elbows with some of the nation's most influential leaders, including Attorney General **Janet Reno**, whom she described as "very pleasant."

After leaving the capital, Royster visited her family in Washington, N.C., where she received accolades from many residents, including her high-school music teacher, **Joyce Harris**. "She was overwhelmed," Royster said.

A 'new broom' for Tampa PD

First black chief sweeps up good old boy network

Tampa, Fla., Police Chief **Bennie Holder**, the first black man ever to head the 800-officer agency, said the round of promotions and transfers he made shortly after taking office Aug. 1 is part of his commitment to diversify the agency and dismantle the "good old boy network" that has influenced promotions and assignments for decades.

A former major of uniformed patrol, Holder, 47, succeeded **Eduardo Gonzalez**, who has been nominated by **President Clinton** as Director of the U.S. Marshals Service. That nomination is awaiting confirmation by the Senate.

Within his first three weeks in office, Holder, a 20-year veteran of the agency, made 55 promotions and transfers, including 16 changes in upper management that were prompted by the retirement of a deputy chief. Among those promoted are the department's first female major and its first female black lieutenant.

Holder told LEN he wants to convey the message that talented officers will have unlimited opportunities for advancement within the agency. "Everyone has certain talents, so I try to place them thoughout the department in positions where the department, and especially the community, will benefit the most," he said. "I try to get away from the personalities and try to put round pegs in round holes."

When Holder was notified in June that he was a top candidate to replace Gonzalez, he immediately began plotting his agenda for the agency. "I identified areas within the organization where I thought there were weak links. In my management level, I want to get what I feel are my really strong people to supervise the uniformed patrol. If you're going to have problems in a police department, it's going to happen at the uniformed level, and you need good, strong mangers there."

Chief Bennie Holder
Looking for round pegs

Holder said he wants to end perceptions among officers that they don't receive promotions "because they're not in a particular clique."

"The message I'm trying to send to the troops," he said, "is that if you do a good job and you get yourself in line for a promotion, then you're going to be given a fair shake regardless of who you know."

The new Chief also hopes his appointment will have a positive effect on the city's black community, which has had strained relations with the police in recent years. "I hope I serve as a good role model, especially for the young kids," he said. "They're the ones we really need to impress upon that if you work hard and do the right thing, get an education, then the opportunities are here for you."

Holder conceded that being the first black man to head the department also has its down side. "Unfortunately, because you're black, sometimes people may expect you to do miracles," he said. "I'm not Moses so I can't part the Red Sea. But that's something that you're always conscious of. And due to the fact that I'm black, I think I'm under the microscope a lot more than probably most police chiefs would be.

"But I'm the police chief for the entire community," he continued. "My job is to make sure that everyone in the community receives equal and fair treatment from the police."

Recently, racial tensions were high in the city because of the trial of two white men recently convicted of abducting and setting fire to a black tourist — which Holder is quick to point out happened outside the city — and a police-involved shooting at a public housing complex.

"We're working on those problems," he said. "We have a very strong community policing program. Unfortunately, you can work real hard to build a rapport with the community, but sometimes it seems like no matter what you do, it's never enough."

Jail birdie

It's tough enough for senior citizens to get by on fixed incomes these days. Now comes word that a 91-year-old Princeton, Ky., woman is facing felony charges following her fifth arrest in eight years for making some extra money through bootlegging, in a county where liquor sales are illegal.

Bertie "Birdie" Lee Smith was arrested Aug. 5 after Princeton police received a complaint that she had sold alcohol to a minor. Police Chief **Keith Dukes** said that a police officer went to Smith's home to investigate and bought alcohol from her. Police later confiscated more than 150 half-pints of liquor and 150 cans of beer from her home. In addition, $43 in cash and $45 in food stamps were found — money believed to be the fruits of Smith's trade.

Caldwell County, located in western Kentucky, is a "dry" county. Because of Smith's prior arrests — she has pleaded guilty or been convicted of illegally selling alcohol four times since 1985 — she faces felony charges on this latest rap. Her repeated arrests are turning into a headache for Chief Dukes, who told The Associated Press that he gets "stopped on the street every time we do this, and people come up and say, 'Why don't you leave this 92-year-old lady alone?'"

That sentiment is echoed by Smith herself, who says selling booze gives her "something to do."

"I think they should leave me alone," she told The AP. "I think they should give me a break and let me do something."

Dukes said the department is stumped over what to do with Smith and no longer puts her in jail after arresting her. Now police just issue an order for her to appear in court. "Older people tell me she's been doing this ever since they can remember," said Dukes. "I don't know any remedy that would stop her."

Smith said she only sells alcohol to "old folks, mostly" and she thinks it's a "shame" that she keeps getting arrested. She said friends have offered to help. "They say they're sorry, and they say if they can help me, they'll do anything they can for me," she said. "I'm an old woman. I have to have something to do, don't I?"

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10 years later, DARE is still controversial

In L.A., program fights to hang on

From the classrooms to the schoolyards, Los Angeles police officers have taken an anti-drug message to thousands of youngsters — but not everyone is convinced that the approach works.

It was 10 years ago last month that a small group of Los Angeles police officers began visiting classrooms to teach children about the dangers of drug abuse as part of an innovative new program developed jointly by the Los Angeles Police Department and the city's Unified School District.

The program, known as DARE — for Drug Abuse Resistance Education — has since grown beyond Los Angeles and is now in place in more than 5,000 communities in all 50 states. This year, about 5.5 million children will learn about substance abuse from more than 11,000 police officers trained to teach the DARE curriculum.

Struggling to Hang On

Yet even as politicians and parents nationwide heaped praise on the program during its 10th anniversary — Congress sponsored a resolution recently honoring the program's founders and supporters — The Los Angeles Times reports that DARE's future in the city of its birth was less than certain.

The program's directors have had to wage increasingly tough battles to maintain LAPD support and funding for the program. The number of LAPD officers assigned to the program has dropped from over 100 to about 92, with only 65 actually working in the program full time.

Police sources told The Times that DARE has suffered from fallout from the Rodney King beating case, which has tainted the reputation of the LAPD since 1991, as well as from its association with former Police Chief Daryl F. Gates, who championed the program from its inception. In addition, the sources said, with crime rising and fiscal resources diminishing, the officers assigned to DARE are attractive candidates for transfers to patrol.

"A lot of people look at the officers assigned to DARE and say: 'Gee, I sure could use those officers in radio cars," said Glenn A. Levant, a recently retired LAPD deputy chief who now runs DARE America. "I call those Neanderthals. . . . The plan is not to let DARE wither and die — but that's what happening."

Wooing a Wary School Board

DARE was born out of frustration on the part of Los Angeles police officials with lackluster efforts to curtail high-school drug abuse using traditional law enforcement methods.

"We had 'buy programs' in the schools where undercover officers would buy drugs from students," recalled Gates, who lists DARE among the top achievements of his often controversial, 14-year tenure as chief. "We kept buying more and more. It was appalling, depressing. I finally said, 'This is crazy. We've got to do something.'"

Gates discussed his concerns with school board members, some of whom were wary, but who ultimately agreed to put together a joint Police Department-school district program to battle drug abuse among students. Ruth Rich, the district's health education specialist, wrote the first DARE curriculum, modeling it on work that had been done at the University of Southern California. When classes began in September 1983, only 10 officers taught the course in 50 schools.

The 17-week program centers on the premise that if students' self-esteem can be enhanced, they are more likely to stay away from drugs. The idea of using police officers to help boost students' self-esteem and teach them ways to resist peer pressure to use drugs was novel and controversial at the time — many believed such duties were best left up to doctors or teachers.

But Rich agreed with Gates that the course should be taught by police officers. "There's a gap between the street and the classroom," said Rich, who is still involved in overseeing the program. "Police officers are believable on this subject. When it comes to drugs, they're more credible than a teacher."

Having officers teaching in the classrooms also fell in line with the community-policing philosophy that has become in vogue throughout the nation in the past decade. Supporters say that the program helps to foster good relations between police and students.

Effectiveness Questioned

Still, criticisms of the program began almost from the start and continue to this day. Reports on the effectiveness of the program in preventing drug abuse have been inconclusive. A 1991 study of DARE by the Center for Research in Law and Justice at the University of Illinois-Chicago found that DARE had "a positive influence on students' knowledge regarding drugs. However, the effectiveness of DARE in altering students' drug use behavior has yet to be established. . . . The available findings indicate that DARE either had no behavioral effects or had a significant effect for only a few substances."

Recently, a study being conducted by a North Carolina group also questioned DARE's effectiveness at drug-abuse prevention. It said DARE gives children a more positive impression of police, but it does not keep them from using drugs.

In one of the most extreme attacks on the program, a group of parents in Fort Collins, Colo., formed the organization Parents Against DARE, whose members charge that the program utilizes discredited psychological techniques to get its message across. The group succeeded in convincing school district officials that Federal law requires students to get parental approval before enrolling in programs like DARE.

Gary Peterson, a Fort Collins businessman who started Parents Against DARE in 1991, said he pulled his child out of the program because he saw "how they were trying to brainwash children."

Choice for Children?

Peterson said the program's premise — that children should be told they have a choice about using drugs — is psychologically flawed, and some psychologists agree.

"Children only have a choice about drug use in the same sense that they have a choice to drive up the off-ramp of Highway 5," said William Coulson, a California psychologist and former member of the Federal Technical Panel on Drug Education Curricula. "They can do that, but it's adult stupidity to teach them that's a legitimate choice."

Coulson and others also take issue with the DARE principle that fostering self-esteem will keep youngsters from using drugs. Children, he said, "don't need to be told they're wonderful; they need to be given direction."

In several cases, children who completed the DARE curriculum later turned their parents in for drugs. Former LAPD deputy chief Levant maintains, however, that officers do not encourage youngsters to turn their drug-using parents in to the authorities, and he disagrees that DARE's ultimate effect on student drug use is minimal. "Anytime you've got something that's popular, people will attack it," he said. "This program is popular. It's successful."

Levant, seeking to buck the critics, has produced his own study of DARE graduates. He points to a recent Gallup poll that showed more than 90 percent of the young people who graduated from DARE gave it high marks for helping them stay away from drugs and alcohol and better deal with peer pressure. The same survey found that 94 percent of DARE graduates used one of the program's "avoidance techniques" to refuse offers of drugs and alcohol.

Paper chase gets a new look for some college applicants

Hometown police asked to vouch for students

Prospective students at a North Carolina college are now required to submit one more piece of paperwork with their application forms — a letter from their local police department disclosing whether the applicant has been involved in any criminal activity.

About 95 percent of the 3,400 would-be freshmen and transfer students who applied to historically black St. Augustine's College this fall complied with the request, said Tracey Todd, a spokesman for the institution. The school, located in Raleigh, is believed to be one of the first in the nation to draft such an admission requirement.

"With any application package, there's always the question, 'Have you ever been convicted of a crime?' What we're doing is merely taking that one step further and asking them to submit verification of that," Todd told LEN. "The reason for doing that is because crime is increasing not only on campuses, but all across the nation. We just want to raise the quality of our students and make sure that we provide them with an environment that's conducive to learning."

Todd said a few students "may have" reported criminal activity, which does not necessarily rule them out as candidates for admission to the 1,950-student college. "This is not a deciding factor on whether a student is admitted or not," he said. "This is merely an added dimension to our application package."

Students' college aptitude test scores, high school academic records and letters of reference still weigh heavily in deciding whether a student is granted admission to the school, Todd said. "If one does not meet standards, that does not automatically disqualify them. We take [the application] as a whole."

All of the records are confidential, he added.

If a student does report a criminal background, his or her application is referred to a committee which reviews such matters on a case-by-case basis. "They decide whether this warrants further consideration or denial of the application," Todd said.

The requirement evolved after a series of crimes last year in which students were victims or perpetrators. In one case, a male student was charged with the drug-related murder of a man in a shopping-center parking lot off campus. "We don't want this school to be a cover for someone who is interested in criminal activity," said Todd.

The state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has criticized the requirement, Todd said, but calls made by LEN to the Raleigh chapter were not returned. Still, Todd defended the practice.

"We feel that we are on the right track. Parents look on us as the guardians of their children when they come here, and it's our responsibility to provide the best possible safety we can." Critics of the policy, he added, "will not be the ones who have to call and tell parents their daughter was raped or caught in the crossfire of a shootout."

Connie Clery, the founder of Security on Campus Inc., a group that successfully lobbied for a Federal law requiring colleges to make their crime statistics available to students and parents, said she thought the requirement was a "great idea." Clery, along with her husband, Howard, formed the group following the murder of their daughter in her dorm room at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania in April 1986. A male student at the school was convicted of the crime and sentenced to death.

"I hope it catches on," she said. "With so much crime happening in our nation and on our campuses, the colleges and administrators have every right to ask. They should also make sure their security guards have no criminal records. Employers have the right to ask such questions, so why shouldn't a college? Kids' lives are at stake."

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Caught in the crossfire:

Denver pulls out the stops against gangs

Denver officials are implementing a coordinated offensive against the city's estimated 5,000 youth gang members, following a rash of random shootings this summer whose victims have included an 11-month-old boy wounded by a stray bullet while visiting the zoo and an elderly woman who was fatally shot as she prepared tea in her kitchen.

Police say there have been nine gang-related homicides this year, a figure lower than last year's total, but city officials add that the latest crackdown is necessary because of the increase in the number of innocent victims caught in crossfires or hit by stray bullets. "It's not the numbers so much; the actual numbers have gone down. It's the fact that innocent victims are being hit," said Briggs Gamblin, a spokesman for Mayor Wellington Webb.

Even Webb has been touched personally by the violence. His wife's car was shot up Aug. 23, while the family was away on vacation. No suspects had been apprehended at press time, but an extra police officer was placed on the Mayor's security detail and his home is under 24-hour guard. Police sources told LEN that gang members are suspected in the incident.

On July 28, police "impact units" of up to 40 police officers hit the streets, charged with targeting gang-related crime and nuisance complaints in each of the city's five police districts. As of Aug. 28, the units had made nearly 2,000 arrests, mostly on misdemeanor charges, and seized nearly 300 weapons from suspected gang members and juvenile criminals.

"We have a zero-tolerance policy vis-a-vis criminal acts committed by gangs," said Capt. Rudy Sandoval of the Police Department's anti-gang unit. "We're targeting the 230 to 250 hard-core gang members to keep an eye on them. If we catch them with guns or narcotics, we're arresting them. Basically, we're trying to make life miserable for them."

Sandoval maintained that the gang problem is not as "deeply entrenched" in Denver as in other major U.S. cities. Chapters of the Crips and Bloods have sprung up since crack cocaine made its debut in the Mile High City during the mid-1980's, he told LEN, along with local gangs of Latin, white, black and Asian youths. All are involved in narcotics trafficking, drive-by shootings, robberies, aggravated assaults and burglaries, he said.

The impact units are funded from a city overtime account, but Mayor Webb warned that unless the city receives Federal funding to keep the units operating or to hire more police officers, he'll be forced to cut other vital services to keep the anti-gang effort going. "Without Federal assistance, I will have no other choice but to cut other critcally important city programs to find the needed funds," Webb said.

Enough funding exists — about $1 million — to pay for the units until the end of the year, the Mayor said. "This is not going to be a short-term battle. We are going to be very methodical in our approach to eliminate this issue."

The impact units appear to be making some strides in battling the problem. In the first five days of deployment, they had arrested over 400 people and seized 69 guns, including semi-automatic pistols, revolvers, derringers, semiautomatic rifles, and pump-action, single-shot, double-barrel and bolt-action rifles and shotguns.

Weapons seizures have continued at a "record-setting pace," added Sandoval, with 297 seized from suspected gang members compared to 167 in the same period last year.

The units are also encouraged to make "contacts" with suspected gang members and youthful offenders and also check out so-called "nuisance addresses" — suspected gang hangouts and crackhouses. Over 100 "nuisance addresses" have been targeted, said Beth McCann, the city's Safety Manager.

McCann told LEN that the city is seeking changes in gun and youthful offender laws, and is stepping up outreach programs for youths at risk for becoming involved in gangs. Webb has proposed charging juveniles with violations of state weapons statutes.

Currently, youthful offenders face no jail time when they break city firearms laws. State law provides only for fines, detention and probation.

Other Webb proposals include a mandatory sentencing law that would guarantee harsh punishment for violations of municipal weapons ordinances, and cracking down on those caught dealing guns from private residences in violation of both city zoning laws and Federal gun-dealer regulations.

"The Mayor is working on legislation to tighten gun-control ordinances," McCann said. "I don't think he's made a final decision on all of the legislation, but in general, it will involved mandatory sentences on weapons violations. The city attorney has already instituted a no plea-bargaining policy in cases involving municipal weapons violations."

McCann added that Webb is considering the possibility of eliminating the "affirmative action" defense in the city's handgun ordinance that allows a person to carry a handgun in a car for protection. Violators could have their vehicles confiscated, she added.

The Mayor has also proposed providing better protection for witnesses to gang crimes, whom he said are often intimidated by "the bad guys." He said he will request more state money for the witness-protection program and will ask for changes in state discovery laws so that suspects can't learn through court documents who is scheduled to testify them.

The Department of Safety early this month instituted a new program in which juvenile offenders convicted of minor crimes are ordered to perform community service activities around the city. In addition, the Department of Human Rights and Community Relations and the city's Commission on Youth are organizing residents in a

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The strong arm of the law

Colorado Governor endorses tough new juvenile-crime measures

Vowing in no uncertain terms to crack down on violent teen-age criminals, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer last month signed a series of laws aimed at stemming a rising tide of youth violence, including measures that ban juveniles under 18 from carrying firearms in almost all cases, provide for immediate detention for violent juvenile offenders, and give counties the authority to enforce curfew and loitering laws.

The Governor's action on Sept. 13 marked the culmination of a hastily convened, five-day special session of the Legislature that was called to deal with increasing juvenile violence in the state, particularly in Denver, which has been plagued by a series of shootouts between rival gangs that have prompted intensified enforcement efforts by police. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb lobbied forcefully for the new provisions. [See accompanying story.]

The special legislative session is believed to be the first ever in the nation devoted solely to the topic of gang violence. It included an appearance by James S. Brady, the press secretary to former President Ronald Reagan, who was shot in the head during the 1981 assassination attempt on Reagan.

"I want every youth to know that we're going to enforce this beginning immediately — this afternoon — and enforce it very vigorously," Romer said of the anti-violence measures. "We've got to send a message that it's over. It's done. If you walk out of your home with a gun in your possession, you're likely to spend some time in jail."

Violators of the gun ban would be subject to at least five days in detention, and would face felony charges for a second offense. They would be presumed "a danger to society" and would be ineligible for bail prior to trial.

"That means that if you violate this law, you are going to be arrested," the Governor said. "You are going to be be put in jail. You are going to be held there until your case is disposed of."

Adults who supply guns to youths or who allow teen-agers to carry them will be subject to felony charges.

Another bill signed by Romer stipulates that youths aged 14 to 17 who are suspects in violent crimes may be charged as adults. If convicted, they will be sentenced to facilities run by the state prison system instead of the more lenient Division of Youth Services.

"The state is going to be very tough and very disciplined about those youthful offenders who are professional, tough, repeated, organized criminals. We're going to set them aside from other juveniles, and we're going to punish them in a strict environment and with the right kind of rehabilitation," Romer said.

Violent offenders will be sent to the Arapahoe County Jail, under a contract signed Sept. 13, but they will eventually be housed in the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center. Romer has proposed building a new facility just for violent youthful offenders.

Other measures signed by Romer would:

¶ Require parents to attend any criminal court proceeding that involves their children;

¶ Grant $1.2 million to expand programs aimed at keeping youths

Continued on Page 10

Sending for the cavalry:

State Police ordered to aid Hartford anti-gang effort

Connecticut Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. last month ordered a contingent of State Police troopers to help Hartford police mount a "coordinated response" to an outbreak of gang-related shootings that has claimed at least two lives and wounded nearly a dozen people, including innocent bystanders, since Aug. 23.

"The fact that there will be a response is a given," Weicker said in a terse statement released Sept. 8. "The timing and substance of that response will not be discussed in public."

State Police officials were mum about details of the deployment, and a spokesman referred questions to the Hartford Police Department.

Lieut. Louis Wolf, a top aide to Hartford Police Chief Jesse L. Campbell, told LEN that gang violence had exploded in Hartford's Frog Hollow and Charter Oak Terrace neighborhoods in recent months, requiring a get-tough approach toward the gangs.

Most of the violence stems from an ongoing turf war between two gangs known as the Latin Kings and Los Solidos. Police estimate that the two gangs have a combined membership of nearly 1,500, and another gang, 20 Love, has an estimated 2,000 members, Wolf said.

"The gangs' primary function out there is the sale of narcotics.... There have been shootings, drive-by shootings and walk-up shootings that we feel are gang-related," he said. "With all of the problems we've been having, we just wanted to create new initiatives."

Previous efforts against the gangs have not been successful, Wolf said, and one reason is that the gangs "are being managed from the sanctuary of Connecticut penal institutions. So the judicial process alone does not always slow them down. They are more sophisticated and highly evolved."

Police have been on the offensive since June 1992, when the Police Department formed an anti-gang task force that, in its first eight months, seized more than 150 firearms, 60 pounds of marijuana, several pounds of cocaine and numerous bags of heroin, Wolf said.

The lieutenant would not disclose how many troopers have been deployed to the neighborhoods to crack down on gangs. "That would allow the gangs to know how many people we have out there. Where we're actually putting them, how long they are going to be there and when we're going to start — these are all tactical questions that we can't answer," he said.

But The Hartford Courant reported that city officials and members of a neighborhood coalition called Hartford Areas Rally Together had asked Governor Weicker to send at least 42 troopers to help restore peace in violence-plagued neighborhoods. The newspaper said the troopers would conduct undercover investigations and supplement police street patrols. Wolf added that the troopers would remain in Hartford indefinitely.

HART, the neighborhood coalition, is also lobbying for tougher sentences for gang members convicted of crimes and wants the Police Department to establish emergency command posts in areas wracked by gang violence.

On Sept. 8, more than 300 residents packed a church gymnasium and applauded Weicker's action. They were told by officials of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Marshal's office that those agencies had also joined the fight. Chief Campbell added that special patrols would be dispatched to ensure the safety of school children, who started classes in early September. After the meeting, residents held a candlelight march to protest the violence.

Wolf said the beefed-up efforts involve undercover narcotics squads and an increased uniformed presence of city, state and Federal officers. Police officials are also lobbying state legislators to provide funding that would allow the department to hire 55 new officers, he added.

In addition, officials are asking for increased use of Federal anti-racketeering laws against gang members, Wolf said, and state prosecutors are undertaking a policy of "directed prosecution" to target gang members arrested by authorities.

Police have stepped up enforcement of a curfew banning youths under 15 years old from loitering on city streets after 9 P.M. The City Council recently amended the ordinance to include all youths under the age of 18, effective Sept. 18, Wolf said. Police are also helping city officials to devise a "Gang Resistance Education and Training" program, a combined enforcement, prevention and intervention program for at-risk youths.

"These are all initiatives to combat gang-related violence and gang-related narcotics sales," the lieutenant said.

This is not the first time state troopers have been deployed to Hartford to help the 430-officer Police Department fight crime. A few years ago, troopers assisted uniformed members of the department's crime-suppression unit as part of an effort known as Operation Safe Streets.

Brutal murders tip Atlanta police to emerging gangs

The brutal murders of two teen-age girls with links to an Atlanta youth gang — one of whom was tortured for a week by gang members before she died — has prompted the Atlanta Police Department to move up plans to form an anti-gang task force.

The murders of Marsinah Johnson, 13, and Nekita Waller, 15, shocked the city and forced the Police Department's hand, according to Deputy Chief Eugene Robinson. He said the planned anti-gang unit will help the police gather data that will be fed into the automated Gang Enforcement Network, which tracks information about gangs compiled by police departments nationwide.

The two young victims were reputed members of the gang known as Doom. The first to die was Johnson, who was believed to have been killed sometime in late April after an argument with Doom's alleged leader, Armand Dunnigan, 25. According to Robinson, Dunnigan accused her of being an informant after some gang members were arrested on burglary charges. He was charged with both murders in August, shortly after Waller's body was discovered.

Waller was reportedly tortured extensively before she was killed in late July, said Robinson. "It appears that she wanted out of the gang, and they would not let her out. [Members] had been told no one could leave the gang alive," he said. Another theory being explored by investigators is that she was involved in a dispute with another female gang member for the affections of a male gang member, he added.

The Johnson murder was revealed by a female gang member who was picked up by an officer of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. After questioning the girl, Atlanta police discovered Johnson's body May 8 near a remote stretch of railroad track, where it had been dumped by her killers. Robinson said Waller's murder was revealed by gang members who had been picked up by police for questioning in the Johnson case. Her body was discovered in a weedy lot in early August, he added.

After the discovery of the murders, Robinson said, police rounded up about nine Doom members, not all of whom were involved in the murders. The killings gave police concrete proof that criminal youth gangs had gained a foothold in Atlanta. "We now have some evidence there is some organized gang activity going on," the deputy chief told LEN.

The Doom gang "preyed on young females. They used certain torture and sexual acts as initiation rites," Robinson said. The violence committed against the two girls reportedly sickened even the most hardened police investigators, including Robinson, a 30-year police veteran, who said, "I never thought I'd see kids killing kids."

Police have begun interviewing Doom members to get information about other gangs in the city. Until recently, Robinson said, Atlanta had largely escaped the problems that youth gangs have posed for other cities. There have been a number of "social groups" that style themselves as gangs — "'wanna-be' groups, claiming to be gangs to get attention" — but police now fear these loosely organized groups have become criminal enterprises involved in a variety of crimes. "They may have been the spark we should have been concerned about," he said.

After the murders, Atlanta police officials felt something had to be done to nip the problem in the bud. "They're not necessarily gangs as we know them to be. But if the perception exists, we must address that perception. The gang enforcement unit is one way to do it," Robinson said.

As part of its strategy, the department is forming a Gang Advisory Committee made up of academicians, social scientists and law enforcement officials from around the nation who are experts on gangs. The committee, whose members are expected to be named later this month, will explore reasons why youths are drawn to gangs and attempt to devise ways to prevent their involvement in criminal activity.

"This city and the Police Department does not have the kind of expertise in gangs that many of the cities on the West Coast have," said Robinson. "It's really a learning process for us."

The department believes a multifaceted approach involving enforcement, intervention and prevention programs is the right way to tackle the problem. "All of these issues are concerns of ours," said Robinson. "The preventive component is not seen as a traditional role of law enforcement, but we see a need for us to take a leadership role. We can't put all of these kids in jail, so we need to have some diversionary programs that we hope the community will buy into and assist us with."

Early reports from intelligence officers attached to the new gang unit indicate there may be as many as 10 criminal gangs operating in Atlanta, the largest with up to 35 or 40 members. But Robinson stressed that since the unit is so new, information is still sketchy.

"We do know that there are organized groups of Crips and Bloods in the state," he said, referring to the two Los Angeles-based gangs who now have chapters in many U.S. cities.

Robinson divulged few details about the unit, but said its main objective is to focus on known gangs to determine whether other groups are engaging in criminal activity. Officers assigned to the unit will photograph suspected gang members and immerse themselves in gang culture, he said.

Police officials also plan to confer with their counterparts in other cities who have waged battles against criminal gangs. "We want to find out what it is they've done and see if we can adapt some of their methods for our use," Robinson said.

Officers will aggressively enforce recently enacted state laws that enhance penalties for those found to commit crimes as members of criminal gangs. And Police Chief Eldrin Bell has asked the state Legislature to approve harsher penalties for those convicted of using handguns while committing crimes.

Robinson emphasized, however, that the push for tougher penalties is being balanced with prevention efforts. "While we want stiffer penalties for those who commit violent acts, we also want to get to those kids before they get involved," he said. "We must make our school environments safe so they'll feel safe and want to stay in school." And all of the efforts, he added, must "involve the total community."

Fraumann:

Business spying & the spying business

By Edwin Fraumann

(First of three parts.)

In the 1990's, as world leadership has come to depend more on a nation's economic strength that on its military might, it is increasingly important for American counterintelligence efforts to deter the theft of private American commercial and industrial secrets by other nations. For this to occur, the country's espionage laws need to be reviewed and, ultimately, revised. Current espionage laws were written 75 years ago to address the threat presented to the United States during World War I. For the most part, we are operating under the same laws that were primarily geared toward the theft of military secrets.

With the fall of Communism and the consequent introduction of the National Security Threat List, which addresses the issue of foreign countries targeting U.S. technology, the FBI has focused increasingly on strategic intelligence threats to U.S. security interests. We stand poised on the brink of engagement in what the futurist Alvin Toffler calls "info-wars." Indeed, there are indications that the info-wars have in fact already begun. Economic and industrial spying will service and support not only governmental objectives but corporate strategy as well, on the assumption that corporate power contributes to national power. As a result, the enormous importance of economics in terms of international relations is being seen as having a decisive influence on a nation's health.

The definitions and terminology of "economic espionage" and "industrial espionage" have yet to be fully agreed upon by experts. Both these approaches go far beyond the mere open or legal forms of information or intelligence collection and analysis. So far as the FBI is concerned, economic or industrial espionage only falls within its purview when it involves defense or classified materials. It is at that point that laws such as the Atomic Energy Act, the National Defense Act of 1947, and the Espionage Act of 1917 come into play to address those issues.

Listening In

Many of our former cold-war allies employ what may be called economic espionage, and direct such practice with increasing frequency and vigor against the United States. Economic espionage, essentially, is when a country's intelligence apparatus becomes involved in the collection and analysis of sensitive information from another country in order to enhance economic security or competitiveness. This gathering of data, both classified and unclassified, is then provided to the spying nation's business community, thereby strengthening its competitive advantage.

(By comparison, industrial espionage refers to the illegal acquisition of proprietary business information by one company from another in order to gain a competitive edge.)

Among the methods commonly used in the furtherance of economic espionage are bribes, blackmail, and offers of sexual favors to appropriate government or corporate officials. It can also take the form of planting "moles" within an organization, the theft of documents, electronic eavesdropping on satellite and cellular phone transmissions, and the interception of microwave communications. Americans who travel in foreign countries are frequently exposed to an intelligence service that monitors phone conversations, faxes and telexes.

The end of the cold war has afforded the U.S. intelligence community the time and resources to focus on an entirely different set of intelligence threats. These threats are not new, but had not been previously addressed because of the focus on the military and technological/industrial threats posed by Soviet-bloc nations.

With Friends Like These...

In 1990, Oliver "Buck" Revell, then the FBI's Associate Executive Director for Investigations, stated that "a number of nations friendly to the U.S. have engaged in industrial espionage, collecting information with their intelligence services to support private industry." One senses that the effort these countries are putting into their economic espionage has elevated this activity from single instances to a widespread assault, from mere skirmishes to a full-fledged war, from isolated crimes to organized crime.

Post-cold war reality suggests strongly that technology has effectively replaced territory as the standard by which a nation's power and influence is measured. For example, the geographically small country of Japan, with its huge technological and economic base, has become a greater challenge to U.S. interests than the immense land mass and former military power of Russia. In fact, the economic and technological spy threat currently facing America emanates largely from such ostensible political allies as France, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Israel. As Peter Schweizer notes in his book "Friendly Spies," published earlier this year, "Espionage between friends is likely to continue to grow as long as economics is seen as an aspect of national security because technology is becoming the new determinant of national power."

> ***"When foreign intelligence services and foreign trading companies collude to penetrate U.S. businesses for their own competitive advantage, there emerges a very real threat to jobs and profits and, inevitably, to our economic well-being."***

Military-Like Protection

In the 1990's, a country's ability to develop and produce technologies will determine its global power and influence. "For that reason, thwarting economic spies from competing countries is critical," noted Richard Helms, the former Director of Central Intelligence, in a 1991 speech. And, adds Schweizer, "Industrial, commercial, financial, business operations of all kinds — and particularly those which are competing in the international arena — require the same kinds of protection which are afforded to military operations or political gambits."

The U.S. has come to realize that if we wish to maintain our position of world leadership, it cannot only be because of our military might. Rather, such status rests increasingly on our economic strength. This being the case, we should recognize that our economic well-being may be threatened by other countries, both traditional and non-traditional antagonists. Americans must recognize that when foreign intelligence services and foreign trading companies collude to penetrate U.S. businesses for their own competitive advantage, there emerges a very real threat to jobs and profits and, inevitably, to our economic well-being.

Currently, experts are looking into the problems and potentialities that would arise or be served if America's position became one of also deploying its intelligence in order to help selected industries and companies. The question they pose, in essence, is: To what extent does the United States see a direct link between its future economic and national security?

(In Part 2: How political allies of the United States perpetrate economic espionage operations against this country.)

(Edwin Fraumann is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has taught as an adjunct assistant professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and New York University, and has a doctorate in education from Columbia University. Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent official positions of the FBI. Eban Bronfman, an adjunct lecturer at John Jay College, assisted with the research for this article.)

Letters

To the editor:

In November 1995, the country is scheduled to be drug-free, but the Bureau of Justice Statistics' "Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991" belies the claims of the politicians. As of the end of 1991, more than three times as many inmates were serving time for drug-related charges as in 1985. The current 137,000 incarcerated drug offenders represents a 281-percent increase over 1985.

Fully 22 percent of our prison space now goes to housing drug offenders, most of whom are serving mandatory sentences. These criminals, including nonviolent, first-time offenders, by fiat can expect to serve somewhere between 20 and 28 months and then face an 88-percent probability of being sent back to prison on another charge.

At this rate, the targeted goal will not be met on schedule. Unless there is a dramatic change in the policy of "zero tolerance" and "prohibition enforced by criminal sanction, the prognosis can only be continued failure. The statistics clearly show that the current policy is not working and that to continue will result in increased levels of violence, increased drug use, wider selection of drugs, corruption of law enforcement and, of course, higher taxes to pay for this failure.

DANIEL J. CASHMAN, C.P.P.
Loss Prevention Consultant
Lyndhurst, N.J.

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Doing it bigger — and better?

Texas gears up statewide anti-crime plans

There are thousands of crime prevention projects in neighborhoods all over the country. There are even crime-

BURDEN'S BEAT
By Ordway P. Burden

prevention projects for whole cities. But where else but Texas — where everything, so they say, is bigger — could you expect to find a crime-prevention campaign that is statewide in scope?

Seven of Texas's eight largest cities have broad-based citizens' committees which have spent much of this year developing crime-prevention plans based on their own community's needs and desires. All seven are now in the throes of beginning implementation of their custom-tailored plans.

Law enforcement leaders had a big hand in creating the action plans to fight crime, but so did neighborhood associations, businesses, civic leaders, educators, and social service agencies. The coalitions in all seven cities got assistance from the National Crime Prevention Council, whose expertise was supported by a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Law enforcement played a significant role in developing many of the action plans," said Terry Modglin, project manager for the NCPC. "It was a wonderful partnership between law enforcement and the communities."

The statewide campaign is known as T-CAP, for Texas City Action Plan to Prevent Crime. If you're an aficionado of acronyms, you'll want to know that T-CAP originated with MUSCLE — Mayors United on Safety, Crime and Law Enforcement. The mayors (and crime-prevention coalitions) of Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio were involved. El Paso started in T-CAP, too, but never completed its action plan because the city was engrossed in its own "Stop the Violence Coalition."

Although each of the seven T-CAP cities developed a crime-prevention plan targeted to its own situation, not surprisingly there are a lot of similarities among plans. Most of them, for example, have recommendations for dealing with drugs and violence. Most emphasize — and here's another mouthful of initials to swallow — CPTED, or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. (CPTED ideas are designed to make it tougher for a criminal to get in and out quickly without being spotted at a crime scene.) Several of the cities' action plans recommend prompt removal of graffiti, involvement of business in crime-prevention efforts, and making young people as well as their parents accountable for misdeeds by youth.

The most detailed, most narrowly focused plan was developed by the 64-member coalition in Houston. At the behest of Mayor Robert C. Lanier, the coalition there focused its entire attention on crime by and against youth. The coalition's chairman, City Council member Gracie Guzman Saenz, said: "Far more than we care to acknowledge, the plight of Houston's children has been worsening. Our youth need more of almost every type of service — more new programs and increased support for existing programs."

The Houston coalition focused on four areas — education, employment, health and environment, and recreation — and put task forces to work to study each area. Each task force developed goals and objectives that, in its view, would have an impact on its areas of concern. Take, for instance, the education task force. One of its goals is to have crime- and violence-prevention programs started in all Houston public schools, and in all grades, within two years. The task force also called for peer mediation teams and teen courts to be established in all secondary schools. And it recommended that the Houston Police Department or other local law enforcement agencies provide crime- and violence-prevention programs in the schools during and after school hours through community, church and recreational programs for kids ages 5 through 18. That was just one of four goals and accompanying objectives of the education task force. The other three task forces had similarly detailed and specific recommendations for crime-prevention work among Houston's youth.

All in all, it's a breathtaking piece of work for a volunteer coalition. Obviously, some of the recommendations would be costly, such as making the Houston police responsible for providing a full range of crime-prevention programs both during and after school.

In Houston and elsewhere, there have been two types of responses by municipal officials to the question of spending money on T-CAP projects. "In some cities," said the NCPC's Modglin, "the mayor and city council said, 'We don't have more money to spend, but maybe we can reprogram existing funds and do it.' Other cities said, 'Give us your best recommendations regardless of cost — but make it reasonable — and we'll try to figure out how to pay for it.'"

Modglin said all seven cities have begun to implement the proposals that are possible now. "I would say that about a quarter of the recommendations in most of the cities will require legislative action," he added. "The others can be done administratively."

The T-CAP crime-prevention campaign has generated a lot of interest beyond the borders of the Lone Star State, Modglin said. He estimated that between 50 and 100 other jurisdictions have inquired about the Texas anti-crime effort. It's no wonder. T-CAP is clearly one of the most ambitious crime-prevention efforts ever launched.

(Ordway P. Burden is president of the Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation and chairman of the National Law Enforcement Council. He welcomes correspondence to his office at 24 Wyndham Court, Nanuet, NY 10954-3845. Seymour F. Malkin, the executive director of LEAF, assisted in the preparation of this article.)

Child-support cases may wind up on FBI's agenda

Watch out, deadbeat dads and moms! FBI agents may be drafted into efforts to track down parents who fail to pay child support.

The nation's first county-Federal alliance to prosecute parents violating the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 was announced last month in Toledo, Ohio, where Lucas County officials have banded with the U.S. Attorney's office.

"It's wonderful," said Geraldine Jensen, the director of the Toledo-based Association for Children for Enforcement of Support Inc. Jensen, whose group lobbies to strengthen child-support laws, said the new arrangement will serve as "a warning to those who abandon their children and try to avoid paying child support by hiding across state lines."

The muscle behind the effort is the Federal law passed last year that makes it a crime for a parent in one state with a child living in another to fall more than $5,000 behind in child-support payments. Parents who fail to make payments for more than a year also face prosecution under the act.

Penalties for first-time offenders are a maximum of six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. A second-offense conviction is a felony punishable by a maximum two-year prison term and a $250,000 fine.

Officials said the worst violators will come under the scrutiny of the U.S. Attorney's office, which would ask the FBI to intervene in the most serious cases. Cases will be referred to the U.S. Attorney's office only after state efforts to get the deadbeats to pay up have been exhausted.

Priority would be given to prosecuting parents who deliberately move from state to state to avoid payment, or who frequently change jobs, conceal assets and addresses or use false Social Security numbers to avoid detection.

The first case referred to the U.S. Attorney's office involves Cathi Minnich of Toledo, the mother of two who claims her ex-husband, David Clark, owes $15,000 in back support. Clark reportedly went to Florida following their divorce. Her case is one of 45,000 child-support cases juggled by Lucas County, about 36 percent of them involving parents living in other states.

Nestor Mishnyak, a spokesman at the FBI's Washington, D.C., headquarters, told LEN that the Justice Department is finalizing guidelines that will spell out the bureau's involvement in child-support cases. "It's not just Ohio, it's across the board," he said of the effort. "There will be certain criteria involved before we pursue deadbeat [parents]."

As crime dips to 17-year low, question of "why" is raised

Continued from Page 1

In the South, 23.4 percent of households reported criminal victimizations, compared to 18 percent in the Midwest. Urban households were more vulnerable to crime than rural ones.

The survey also noted "substantial" declines in several crime categories in the period between 1975 and 1992. It said burglary fell 7.7 percent to 4.2 percent of all households during the 17-year period. Household theft fell from 10.2 percent to 7.2 percent, and personal theft from 16.4 percent to 9.7 percent.

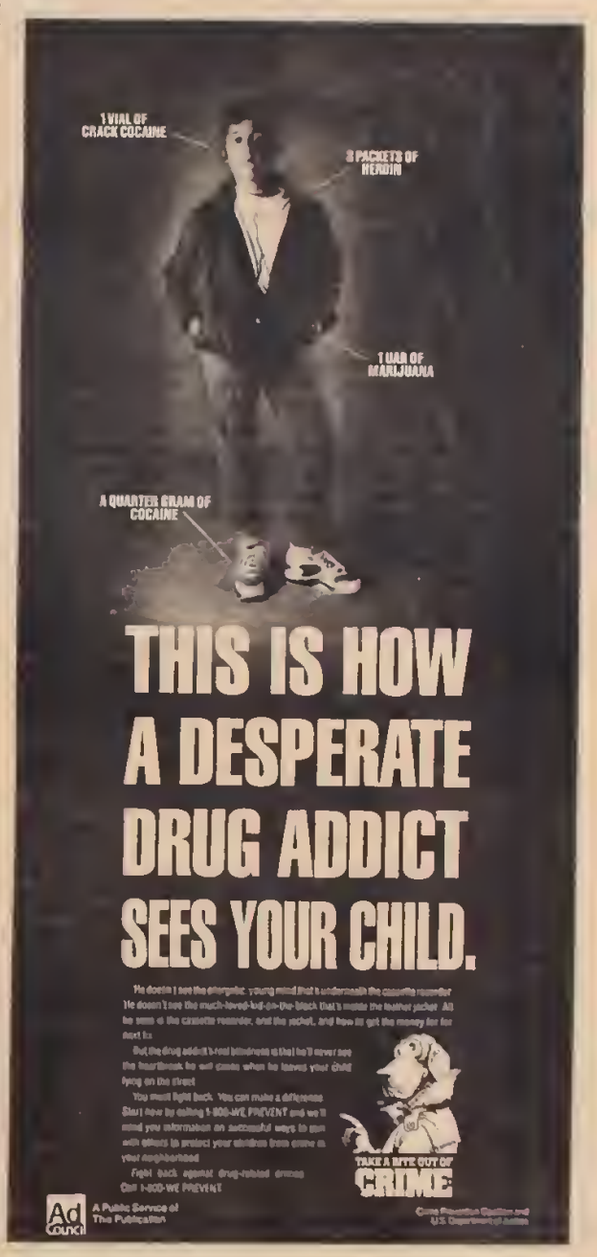
The survey suggested that demographic changes — gradual shifts in population from large households in urban areas to smaller ones in suburban and rural areas — contributed to the 17-year decline.

"Rates have clearly been going down. The question is why?" said Alfred Blumstein, Dean of the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Blumstein, who said he was "somewhat dubious" about the decline shown by the household survey, agreed that smaller households may have contributed to the trend.

"There is a notion that more people in the household increases the exposure of the household to crime. That's one interpretation," he told LEN.

Blumstein noted that the BJS survey's downward trend stands in marked contrast to the several years of crime increases reported by the FBI in its annual crime tally. "The UCR has been going up, in part, because there has been slightly more reporting to the police," he said.

A third explanation for the decline, he said, is that "we're simply getting less response from the victimization survey." Since data-gathering methods have become more sophisticated — no longer requiring home visits by interviewers — people may be less forthcoming about their crime victimizations in a telephone interview than they might be with an interviewer sitting right in front of them, Blumstein said.



NC police in a pickle over pepper mace

Continued from Page 1
related deaths, whether in police custody or not."

Suspending Use to Review Policy

Dr. Flannagan's findings prompted the Concord Police Department to immediately suspend the use of the spray. The Charlotte Police Department postponed plans to issue the spray it had recently purchased for its officers, and other law enforcement agencies in the state have followed suit. The day after the findings were released, State Attorney General Michael F. Easley issued guidelines to law enforcement agencies on how to care for individuals sprayed with the substance.

Concord Police Chief Robert Cansler told LEN there were two factors in his decision to suspend use of the spray. ""One was to allow us to review our policy and reissue pepper spray with new training," he said. "The second factor was to minimize the probability of a second major disturbance following the [release of] the autopsy."

Charlotte Deputy Police Chief Jack Boger said the department had received its first shipment of 1,200 canisters of OC spray and was getting training underway when the Concord incident occurred July 11. "Considering the implication of that incident, we put it on hold," he told LEN. "Our plans right now are just to do nothing until we're sure [of the product's safety]." The Durham Police Department also reportedly shelved its supply.

The University of North Carolina Police Department in Charlotte also decided against issuing the spray to officers for the time being. Spokesman Frank Hamilton said officials there are not ruling out issuing the spray later on.

Sticking to Their Guns

Other police officials say that while they are concerned about the Medical Examiner's findings, they will continue to allow officers to carry OC spray. They say the deterrent has helped them drastically reduce the number of suspect and officer injuries sustained during arrests and provides an alternative to nightsticks and other weapons.

"We've had it, and we're going to continue to use it," said Police Chief Alana Ennis of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. "I checked with police attorneys at the Attorney General's office just to make sure our policy was as good as I thought it was, and it is. I'm satisfied that it's a good, nonlethal product."

Robinson's death is "unfortunate," Ennis said, "but I don't believe in throwing the baby out with the bath water. We're going to continue to use it."

"We have not restricted it in any way," said Capt. Robert Carroll of the Raleigh Police Department, where pepper-based sprays have been in use for nearly two years. "We've had no prolonged injuries or illnesses that we know of. What we can say is that injuries to our officers as well as to perpetrators have come down, and our excessive-force complaints have come down, which is a plus for us."

Learning from the Incident

The state Justice Department's Training and Standards Division is developing formal guidelines for the use of OC spray, and in the meantime, the state Attorney General's office issued an advisory to law enforcement agencies on the care of suspects sprayed with the substance. Among its recommendations:

¶ Remove the subject from the area of exposure and place in fresh air.

¶ Ask the subject if he/she suffers from any respiratory diseases or problems, such as asthma, bronchitis or emphysema. If the subject displays respiratory problems, seek medical attention for the subject immediately.

¶ Assure the subject that the effects of the OC spray are temporary.

¶ Flush the subject's face with water or apply a wet towel to hasten recovery.

¶ Using a mild soap that contains a grease-cutting agent will remove the OC and speed recovery.

¶ While transporting the subject to a police or medical facility, monitor his condition and watch for signs of breathing difficulty, nausea or other physical discomfort. Never leave the subject unattended until the effects have completely diminished or the individual indicates they have fully recovered from the effects of the spray. Medical attention should be given to individuals sprayed with OC if symptoms have not disappeared within one hour.

¶ Inform detention facility officials that the suspect has been sprayed.

¶ Officers at the scene of a spraying should not touch their eyes, nose, mouth or other sensitive areas of the body until they are able to wash their hands.

Easley did not advise law enforcement agencies to stop using the substance, said spokesman Greg Rideout. "As long as OC training is available, it's a very useful tool for law enforcement officers. We just want to look at this incident and learn from it," he said.

Off the Streets

The three Concord officers involved in the Robinson arrest have been assigned to administrative duties since the incident, pending the completion of a review by the State Bureau of Investigation. At press time, the bureau's report was nearly complete, said Chief Investigator William Dowdy, who declined to disclose details of the report. The SBI's findings, which will not be made public, are to be forwarded to the Cabarrus County District Attorney's Office, which will decide if criminal charges are warranted.

Local newspaper reports say the SBI investigation is focusing on whether officers failed to give Robinson adequate medical treatment during the 11-minute ride to the police station, where an ambulance was summoned. Investigators are also trying to determine exactly how much OC was used on Robinson. Four used canisters — none of them empty — were reportedly found at the scene of the incident.

In addition, the U.S. Justice Department is conducting an investigation into possible violations of Robinson's civil rights. Chief Cansler, a former assistant state attorney general, told LEN that the Justice Department's action is routine and that no on-scene investigators from its Civil Rights Division had questioned members of his 71-officer department.

The local chapter of the NAACP said it may seek a hearing under a state law that provides for the removal of police officers if a judge deems them unfit to serve. "We believe that had prompt action been taken, a life may have been saved," the group said in a statement last month.

No Previous Problems

Cansler said he could not comment on details pertaining to the case because of the ongoing investigations. He said that officers received four hours of training on the proper use of OC spray, and they themselves were sprayed with the substance, which is a routine component of such training.

In a statement released Aug. 30, the department said Concord officers had used the spray on 13 criminal suspects prior to the Robinson incident. None of those sprayed experienced any adverse reactions, it said.

Experts urge common sense, not abandoning OC sprays

Continued from Page 1
law enforcement training at the Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin and a former executive director of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, said the North Carolina incident does give cause for concern, but not for alarm, and taking OC away from officers "may cause further problems."

"If you take it away, you're taking away a very effective option and officers may have to use more force — batons or firearms," he said. "I think taking it away is a knee-jerk reaction. By taking it away, you may be doing more harm than good."

Howard Perry, president of Advanced Defense Technologies Inc., which manufactures the brand of OC used on Robinson, said several studies support manufacturers' claims that the products are non-lethal and safe to use. Most officers are routinely sprayed with the substance during training, he noted, and "the vast number of people who have been sprayed back the safety claims. You don't have the same type of statistical data on the other products used by law enforcement."

All of the experts contacted by LEN said there are too many unknowns in the Robinson case for law enforcement agencies to jump to hasty conclusions about OC's role in the death. Ouelette said a number of things could have gone wrong. Robinson may have inhaled the alcohol commonly used in the sprays as a carrier, triggering respiratory distress and vomiting. Robinson's health problems may also have contributed to the death. "We just don't know what happened down there," he said.

"We need to make sure we look at this thoroughly and completely, and find out as much information as we can," said Nowicki. "We need to look at this carefully and not be alarmed, but not sweep it under the rug either."

Perry said that officers must use "common sense" when using the spray on unruly suspects.

"Training is not meant to replace common sense, it's meant to supplement it," he said. "If a suspect has obvious physical distress, then he should be given medical attention. As I've said all along, proper training is paramount. A lot of departments choose to issue these sprays without training, and we feel that it's very important that they seek accredited training programs."

— Jacob R. Clark

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LEN-101593

Colorado Governor aims laws at violent gangs

Continued from Page 6
away from criminal activity;

¶ Expand juvenile "boot-camp" facilities by 80 beds;

¶ Add a judge to Arapahoe County to expedite cases involving juveniles;

¶ Double court fines levied against juveniles to raise money to pay for programs in the Youthful Offender System;

¶ Allow counties to enforce curfew, loitering and graffiti laws;

¶ Open court records for youths arrested on serious felonies;

¶ Authorize the Department of Social Services to use $26 million in Federal Medicaid rebates to pay for the implementation of the new laws.

Romer acknowledged that the new laws alone will not help stop juvenile violence, saying that intervention and prevention programs are just as crucial in the effort.

"It's not just enough to have an iron fist," he noted. "What we also need is an open hand, an open hand of prevention and intervention. But particularly, we need to engage every citizen in the state in a way in which they say, 'I have a role to play,' and that role needs to begin in every family and every neighborhood."

Denver police pump up anti-gang drive

Continued from Page 6
block-by-block effort to reduce crime and violence, and the entire problem was to be the focus of a gang summit scheduled for Sept. 10-11.

City officials also hope to jump-start the often frustratingly slow pace of the juvenile justice system, McCann said. "We're trying to get the entire system reoriented toward expediting cases for juveniles who are involved in weapons offenses, so there will be quicker trials and more immediate results," she noted. "Unfortunately, our juvenile system operates very slowly, which is probably true everywhere. But often, by the time the kid gets sentenced, it's hard to remember what it was that got him there in the first place."

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

17-23. Providing Executive Protection. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Berryville, Va.

18-19. Interviewing the Sexually Abused Child. Presented by the University of Delaware. Brewster, N.Y

18-19. Radio Dispatchers' Seminar. Presented by the University of Delaware Oakhurst, N.J.

18-20. Questionable Death: Accident, Homicide or Suicide. Presented by Rollins College. Orlando, Fla. $350.

18-20. Understanding Body Language in Interviewing. Presented by the University of Delaware. Boca Raton, Fla.

18-21. Advanced Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

18-21. Interrotec® Kinesic Interview Technique. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $340.

18-22. Basic Jail Officer Course. Presented by Barton County Community College. Fort Scott, Kan. $295.

18-22. Law Enforcement Fitness Instructor Certification. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

18-22. Police Resource Allocation & Manpower Scheduling. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $400.

18-22. Vehicle Dynamics. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill $500.

18-22. Advanced Technical Surveillance II. Presented by the National Intelligence Academy. Fort Lauderdale, Fla. $650.

18-22. Interviews & Interrogations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425.

18-22. Investigation of Motorcycle Accidents. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Phoenix. $425.

18-29. High-Intensity Officer Survival Course. Presented by Medern Warrior Inc. Lindenhurst, N.Y. $650.

18-Nov. 5. Command Training Program. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

19-20. Conducting the Background Investigation, Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

20-21. Officer Field Safety Procedures. Presented by the University of Delaware. Fort Drum, N.Y.

21-22. Managing the Detective Unit. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

21-22. Managing the Patrol Function. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wayne, N.J.

25. Weapon Retention Instructor Certification. Presented by Pro-Systems Bloomingdale, Ill. $125.

25-26. Asset Forfeiture. Presented by CFI Associates Ledyard, Conn. $295.

25-26. Drug & Narcotics Investigation. Presented by the University of Delaware. Braintree, Mass.

25-26. Robbery Investigation. Presented by the University of Delaware. Worcester, Mass.

25-26. Drug Interdiction. Presented by the University of Delaware. Jackson, Miss.

25-27. Street Survival '93. Presented by Calibre Press. Minneapolis. $159 (all three days); $135 (first two days only); $85 (third day only).

25-27. Asset Tracing: Forfeiture/Financial Investigation Training. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. Tacoma, Wash. $495.

25-28. Comprehensive Staff Inspections Training. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $396.

25-29. Advanced Traffic Accident Reconstruction with Microcomputers (C.A.A.R). Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $595.

25-29. Crime Scene Technicians Involving Surface Skeletons & Buried Bodies. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425.

25-29. Defense Without Damage (Instructor Training). Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

25-29. Basic Telephone Systems I. Presented by the National Intelligence Academy. Fort Lauderdale, Fla. $650.

25-29. Basic Telecommunicator Training. Presented by the Muscatine (Iowa) Police Department. Muscatine, Iowa. $270

25-29. Progressive Patrol Administration. Presented by the Muscatine (Iowa) Police Department. Muscatine, Iowa. $485

25-29. Training the Trainer. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $490

25-Nov. 5. Advanced Traffic Accident Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425.

25-Nov. 5. Traffic Accident Reconstruction I. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute Evanston, Ill. $700.

27-28. Concealment Areas within a Vehicle. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management Jacksonville, Fla. $275.

27-28. Understanding Body Language in Interviewing. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

27-28. Locating Hidden Assets & Information. Presented by the University of Delaware. Washington, D.C.

28-29. Cultural Diversity. Presented by the University of Delaware. Owings Mills, Md.

28-29. Radio Dispatchers' Seminar. Presented by the University of Delaware. Greenbelt, Md.

28-29. Police Use of Force. Presented by the University of Delaware. Miami Beach, Fla.

28-29. Crime Prevention. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

NOVEMBER

1-3. Street Survival '93. Presented by Calibre Press. Dallas. $159 (all three days); $135 (first two days only), $85 (third day only).

1-5. Crime Analysis Applications Training. Presented by the Montgomery County, Md., Police Department. Rockville, Md. $425.

1-5. Basic Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

1-5. Field Training Officers Program. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

1-5. Tactical Team Operations I. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $570.

1-5. Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $550.

1-5. Practical Crime Scene Technicians Workshop. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $495.

1-5. Criminal Patrol Drug Enforcement. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425

1-12. Advanced Traffic Accident Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management St Petersburg, Fla. $575

2-4. Firearms Retention & Gun Disarming. Presented by Medern Warrior Inc. Lewes, Del. $250.

2-4. Asset Tracing & Financial Investigation Procedures for Investigators & Auditors. Presented by the Investigation Institute. San Francisco $595.

3-4. Emergency Vehicle Operations. Presented by Barton County Community College. Great Bend, Kan. $75.

4-5. Drug & Narcotics Investigation. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

4-5. Supervisory Principles in Communication Centers. Presented by the University of Delaware. Cherry Hill, N.J.

5. PR-24 Certification. Presented by Barton County Community College. Great Bend, Kan. $75.

6. Successful Promotion: A Personal & Career Development Seminar. Presented by Davis & Associates. Anaheim, Calif $125.

6-9. Annual Training Seminar. Presented by the Evidence Photographers Council. Los Angeles. $245.

7-14. International Conference on Law Enforcement & Community Policing. Moscow, Russia. $4,125 (est.)

8-9. Arson Investigation. Presented by the University of Delaware Daytona Beach, Fla.

8-10. Tactical Team Operations Management. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $375.

8-10. Street Survival '93, Presented by Calibre Press. Orlando, Fla. $159 (all three days); $135 (first two days only); $85 (third day only).

8-10. Gypsy Culture, Crime & Investigations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $325.

8-10. Refining Academy Teaching Skills & Techniques. Presented by the University of Delaware. Wilmington, Del.

8-10. Understanding Body Language in Interviewing. Presented by the University of Delaware. Houma, La.

8-12. Undercover Drug Enforcement Techniques. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $495.

8-12. Advanced TEAM-UP Database Management. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $575

8-12. Police Motorcycle Rider Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $650.

8-12. Basic Video I. Presented by the National Intelligence Academy Fort Lauderdale, Fla. $650.

8-12. Basic Principles of Human Identification. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill $250.

8-12. Traffic Accident Reconstruction II. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $500.

8-12. Selective Drug Traffic Law Enforcement. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill $500.

8-12. Tactical Team Operations II. Presented by the Institute of Public Service Atlanta. $700

8-19. Police Motorcycle Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $1,100.

8-19. Traffic Accident Reconstruction. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $595.

9. CAS Expandable Baton Instructor Certification. Presented by Pro-Systems. Bloomingdale, Ill $175.

9-10. Total Quality Management I: Concepts, Tools & Techniques. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management Wellesley, Mass

10. Vehicular Fire Investigation. Presented by the University of Delaware. Daytona Beach, Fla.

12. OCAT Instructor Certification. Presented by Performance Dimensions Inc. Harrisburg, Pa. $195.

15-16. Total Quality Management II: Application & Assessment. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

15-16. Call-Taker Telephone Interview Techniques. Presented by the University of Delaware. Braintree, Mass

15-16. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. Presented by the University of Delaware. Pensacola, Fla.

15-17. Firearms Alternative Survival Tactics. Presented by Medern Warrior Inc. Lindenhurst, N Y $250

15-17. Managing Your Agency's Microcomputers. Presented by the JRSA National Computer Center. Washington, D.C. $450/$360.

15-17. Understanding Body Language in Interviewing. Presented by the University of Delaware. Richmond, Va.

15-18. Police Interview & Interrogation Techniques. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $400.

15-19. Advanced Crime Scene Technology. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute Evanston, Ill. $600.

15-19. Practical Homicide Investigation. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. $600

15-19. Electronic Tracking. Presented by the National Intelligence Academy. Fort Lauderdale, Fla. $650.

15-19. Executive Protection I. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $800

15-19. Tactical Team Trainer Certification. Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Atlanta. $600.

15-19. DWI Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425.

15-19. Police Executive Development. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. $425.

For further information:

(Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.)

Barton County Community College, Attn: James J. Ness, Director, Administration of Justice Programs, R.R. 3, Box 136Z, Great Bend, KS 67530-9283. (316) 792-1243. Fax: (316) 792-8035.

Calibre Press, 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727. (800) 323-0037.

CFI Associates, Attn.: D. Saccente, 998 Farmington Ave., Suite 117, West Hartford, CT 06107. (203) 523-0734. Fax: (203) 523-0675.

Citizen Ambassador Program, Attn.: D. Michael Rennaker, Director of Law Programs, Dwight D. Eisenhower Building, Spokane, WA 99202 (509) 534-0430. Fax. (509) 534-5245.

Congress '93 Secretariat, 425 Viger St. West, Suite 620, Montreal, Quebec H2Z 1X2 (514) 873-4239. Fax: (514) 873-6460

Davis & Associates, P.O Box 6725, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607. (714) 495-8334

Evidence Photographers International Council, 600 Main St., Honesdale, PA 18431. (717) 253-5450.

Executive Protection Institute, Arcadia Manor, Rte. 2, Box 3645, Berryville, VA 22611. (703) 955-1128.

Institute of Police Technology & Management, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd. So., Jacksonville, FL 32216. (904) 646-2722.

Institute of Public Service, 4854 Old National Highway, Atlanta, GA 30344 1-800-235-4723.

Investigation Training Institute, P.O Box 669, Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-9123

Justice Research & Statistics Association/ JRSA National Computer Center, 444 N. Capitol St., Suite 44, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 624-8560. Fax: (202) 624-5269.

LPS, 5471 Lake Howell Rd., Suite 236, Winter Park, FL 32792. (407) 671-8226 Fax: (407) 671-8249

F. Michael McLaurin & Associates, P.O Box 391, Newell, NC 28126-0391. (704) 535-8434.

Modern Warrior Inc., 711 N Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. (516) 226-8383.

Montgomery County Department of Police, Attn.: Skip Baylor, Central Crime Analyst, 2500 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850. (301) 217-4015. Fax: (301) 217-4095.

Muscatine Police Department, Attn.: Capt. Robert A. Yant, 312 E. 5th St., Muscatine, IA (319) 263-9922. Fax: (319) 264-0750.

National Intelligence Academy, 1300 N.W 62nd St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309. (305) 776-5500. Fax. (305) 776-5005.

New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, P.O Box 57350, Babson Park, MA 02157-0350. (617) 237-4724.

Northwestern University Traffic Institute, 555 Clark St., P.O. Box 1409, Evanston, IL 60204 1-800-323-4011.

Performance Dimensions Inc., P O Box 502, Powers Lake, WI 53159-0502 (414) 279-3850 Fax· (414) 279-5758.

Pro-Systems, P.O. Box 261, Glenview, IL 60025 (708) 729-7681.

Rollins College, Public Safety Institute. 1000 Holt Ave., #2728, Winter Park, FL 32789-4499. (407) 647-6080. Fax (407) 647-3828.

Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707. (214) 690-2376. Fax. (214) 690-2458.

University of Delaware, Division of Continuing Education, Attn: Jacob Haber, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806. (302) 573-4487.

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Message in a bottle?

Could a pepper-based spray have caused a suspect's death in North Carolina?
"Yes," says a medical examiner.
"No way," says the manufacturer .
"Maybe, so we'd better not take any chances," say some police officials.
"It's too soon to say, so let's not throw the baby out with the bath water," say some veteran police trainers. **See Page 1.**

Gang-banging:

In Atlanta, Denver, and Hartford, Conn., officials decide they've had their fill of gang-related crime and the random violence that goes with it. From the streets to the corridors of legislative power, they're swinging into action. **Pages 6, 7.**